



MundoMaya

NEWS • April

# Spring Equinox

The equinoxes happen at the time of the year when the two poles of the planet are at the same distance from the sun. That is to say that the amount of sunlight is equal in both hemispheres, which results in day and night having equal duration in all parts of the Earth.

In Guatemala, the spring equinox is one of the most important phenomena because according to the ancestral Mayan belief,

the sunrise marks the beginning of all things. Therefore, various ceremonies are held and their main objective is the celebration of the astrological movements with the sun in the line of Ecuador, an event that, according to the beliefs and traditions, provides a balance for the human being and for the universe. Rituals conducted by Mayan spiritual guides are performed during these ceremonies.



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# *In search of Adventure*

These places are ideal to be visited in Easter and discover the natural wonders of Guatemala.

Visit Semuc Champey: Semuc Champey is worldwide recognized for its beautiful pools of crystalline water surrounded by tropical forest. It is possible to swim, rest and enjoy surrounded by a unique nature in Guatemala. Known as the largest natural pool in the country, this site offers an unforgettable experience.



Visit the Island of Flores: Without a doubt, the Island of Flores is a beautiful destination to rest and enjoy in one of the most paradisiacal places of Guatemala. The best is that there are many things to do in this location and many tourist sites nearby, for instance, Yaxhá or the National Park of Tikal.

Visit the Laguna Brava: La Laguna Brava is a perfect destination to visit if you are one of those who do not like to travel to busy places. The waters of this lagoon tend to a turquoise blue that, depending on the time of the day, offers different shades of blue. Sometimes, winds are generated and agitate its waters, and this sound can reach to be listened in the distance, making the natives think that the lagoon is angry.



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# Learn Guatemala #Culture

The official language of Guatemala is Castilian. But the languages of Mayan, Garifuna and Xinka origin also enjoy official recognition. This is the complete list of the country's languages, totaling 25.

## Languages of Guatemala:

- Xinka: is a group of 4 languages closely related that is spoken in 7 municipalities in Santa Rosa and Jutiapa.
  - Garifuna: This is used in other countries such as Honduras, Belize and Nicaragua. It represents a mixture of the old Arawak language of the Caribbean, African words and phonetics, together with influences of French and English settlers.
- There are 22 languages of Mayan origin. We share some of them here:

## Achi' —

It is mainly spoken in the municipalities of Cubulco, Rabinal, Salamá, San Jerónimo and San Miguel Chicaj, Baja Verapaz. It is spoken by about 85000 people.

Spoken in Camotán, Jocotán, Olopa and Quetzaltepeque, in the municipality of Chiquimula. It is also used in the Department of Zacapa, in the Union. Speakers of this language are approximately 30000 people.

## — Ch'orti'

## K'iche' —

The speakers of this language are part of the most extensive linguistic community in the country. In fact, it is the second most spoken language in Guatemala, after Castilian. It is used in 65 municipalities in the following 7 departments: Quiché, Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, Sololá, Suchitepéquez, Totonicapán, San Marcos and Chimaltenango. A million people speak it.

With this language people communicate in 6 municipalities of 3 departments: Guatemala, Jalapa and Escuintla. It is spoken by about 30000 people.

## — Poqomam



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